

<i>Hemidactylus brooki</i>	—	many
<i>H. maculatus</i>	—	many
<i>H. frenatus</i>	—	many
<i>H. albofasciatus</i>	—	6

## FROGS

<i>Rana hexadactyla</i>
<i>R. tigerina</i>
<i>R. limnocharis</i>
<i>R. cyanophlyctis</i>
<i>R. breviceps</i> ssp.
<i>Microhyla ornata</i>
<i>Rhacophorus maculatus</i>

## Caecilian

One species, probably  
*Indotyphlus*—6

## ARTHROPODS :

<i>Heterometrus gravimanus</i>	—	Black scorpion
<i>Buthus tamulus</i>	—	Red scorpion
Chilopoda	—	Centipedes (with young)
Diplopoda	—	Millipedes
Crustacea	—	Crabs
Arachnida	—	Spiders
Forficulidae	—	Earwigs (with young)
Coleoptera	—	Beetles

*Conclusion :*

The biotope of Ratnagiri District in the State of Maharashtra is especially interesting for its very high population of *Echis carinatus*. Though an inhospitable area in monsoon it is an extremely valuable study area and worth more attention by herpetologists and entomologists in particular.

MADRAS SNAKE PARK TRUST,  
MADRAS-22,  
August, 1973.

R. WHITAKER

### 15. OCCURRENCE OF THE BAT-FISH, *PEGASUS VOLITANS* LINNAEUS (PEGASIFORMES : PEGASIDAE) FROM THE COASTAL WATERS OF INDIA

Day (1889) recorded *Pegasus draconis* Linnaeus from the Andamans; Johnstone (1904) and Munro (1955) recorded *Pegasus* (*Parapegusus*) *natans* (Linnaeus) from the Pearl Banks of Ceylon; and Munro (1955) recorded *Pegasus* (*Parapegusus*) *volans* (Linnaeus) and *Pegasus draconis* Linnaeus from Ceylon. According to Herre (1953) *Pegasus* (*Parapegusus*) *natans* (Linnaeus) and *Pegasus* (*Parapegusus*) *volans* (Linnaeus) are synonymous with *Pegasus volitans* Linnaeus. The family Pegasidae

with one genus, *Pegasus* Linnaeus, with probably two degenerate species, *P. volitans* and *P. draconis*, is Indo-Pacific in its distribution, extending from East Africa to Japan and Australia.

Jones & Pantulu (1958) reported a few post-larval stages of *Pegasus* (*Parapegasus*) *volitans* (*natans*) from the Orissa Coast and Krishnamurthy (1961) reported a single larval stage of the same species from the plankton collections off Porto Novo, considered to be the earliest known stage for this species. Since Munro's record from the Gulf of Mannar, there is only one record of an adult specimen of *Pegasus volitans* Linnaeus from coastal waters of India. Jayadev Babu (1966) reported a single specimen of *Pegasus volitans* Linnaeus, off Kovalam, 30 miles south of Madras, the total length of which is only 57 mm.

While going through the fish collections of this Regional Station (Madras), a single specimen of *Pegasus volitans* Linnaeus was found. The specimen was caught off Appa Island, Tamilnadu on 21-i-1969.

The present specimen measures 90 mm in total length which shows that it is the first record of a fully grown specimen from coastal waters of India. The upper surface is dark brown in colour and the lower surface is paler. There are brown spots on the pectoral fins.

The specimen was deposited in the collections of this Regional Station with Reg. No. V. 452.

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T. VENKATESWARLU

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